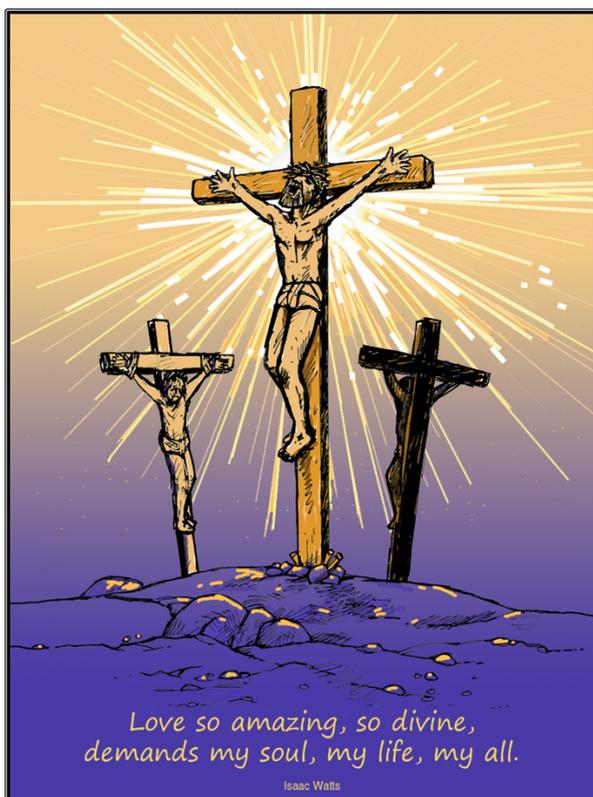


The Holsworthy Benefice Magazine April 2019

**For the Parishes of the United Benefice of
Holsworthy, Bridgerule, Hollacombe,
Pyworthy with Pancrasweek**



www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Find us on Facebook



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If you have anything you would like to be considered for publication in our magazine please give it to the editor by the 20th of the preceding month. It can be sent by email or hand written. Our printer in Bude can usually reproduce photographs to a reasonable standard. If you want any hard copy or pictures returned please ensure your name and address is on the back.

This magazine is produced for the churches of St. Peter and St. Paul Holsworthy; St. Bridget's, Bridgerule; St. Petroc, Hollacombe; St. Swithun, Pyworthy; St. Pancras, Pancrasweek; and is the only publication promoting the views and vision of the benefice.

The contents of this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the individual PCC's but are those of individual contributors.

Mission Community Prayer

Lord of the Church, hear our prayer for the Holsworthy Mission Community: Set our hearts on fire with love for you. Claim our worship and wealth, our abilities and our time, that we be worthy stewards of all that you have given. Save us from complacency and fear of new ways; inspire us with vision; make us a power-house of prayer, a community of loving service, and faithful witnesses to your kingdom as we grow daily in and through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

From the rectory

The lambs are bouncing around the fields and the spring flowers are nodding their heads showing off their lovely colours. The bees are buzzing and the shops are full of Easter Eggs. All signs of new life. Easter Sunday this year is on 21st April, quite a late Easter.

The church continues to remember and journey with Jesus in the wilderness through these first few weeks of April. We step up a notch in our disciplines of Lent when Passiontide starts on 7th April and lasts until Holy Saturday. Passiontide is marked by the removing or covering of icons, statues and crosses.

Pascha (a word derived indirectly from pesach, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Over time, the Pascha developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter.

Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated. Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, 'commandment', because of the use of John 13.34) contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

John 13.34
I give you a new
commandment, that
you love one another.
Just as I have loved
you, you also should
love one another.

After keeping vigil ('Could you not watch with me one hour?') Thursday passes into Good Friday with its two characteristic episodes; The veneration of the Cross and the sequence of meditations and music known as the Three Hours' Devotion. The first is now sometimes incorporated into the structure of the second or vice versa. It is a widespread custom for there not to be a celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday, but for the consecrated bread remaining from the Maundy Thursday Eucharist to be given in communion. The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

For each of us to enter into the joy of the empty tomb we must journey with Christ through Passiontide. When we are hungry for things that feed us, we become more satisfied than if we are never hungry. We must enter Jerusalem leaving behind the wilderness. We are invited to share in the last supper and let Jesus wash our feet. We must not avoid the tortuous journey of Jesus carrying his own cross and being crucified. Only if we walk alongside of Jesus through the whole of Holy Week can we really start to understand what Jesus did for the world, and why Easter is the most important Festival of the year.



Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Yours in Christ.

Mother Elizabeth



News from the Churches in our Benefice

St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

Holsworthy Parish New Electoral Roll

From Mary Beckford, Electoral Roll Officer for Holsworthy Parish Church

Thank you to everyone who applied to be on the new Electoral Roll. I am pleased to be able to inform you that the number on the roll has risen from 52 to 61.

Samaritans purse update

A Message from Lucy Worth our local coordinator

This year Operation Christmas Child in North Devon processed and sent an amazing 2088 gift filled shoeboxes and these formed part of the 511,200 that were sent from the United Kingdom. The 2088 boxes that were processed through Grosvenor church, Barnstaple have now been sent to Bulgaria.



Thanks to the support of churches like yours and others around the world this year that's 10,623,776 children who will have a ray of hope and love shone into

their lives. These gifts also enhance the local church's ability to share the Good News of Jesus with children in their community as the local community are truly impacted by the generosity and unconditionality of the gifts.

The increased donation is enabling us to better support both our teams in the UK and those churches overseas delivering the boxes, supporting our aspiration that everything we do, we should do well. We thank you for your support and efforts in this regard.

Messy Church

From Sue Bumby

Messy Church at the Primary School has changed to **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS** (4th in the month) between 3:00 and 4:30 in the lower classroom.

All primary children and their carers are welcome.



Jesus and the Disciples on the Lake of Galilee

Made by the children at the March Messy Church at Holsworthy Primary School



Next session

Weds 24th April

Do come and join us for stories, games, craft and fun.

Holsworthy Parish Church Finances

From Helen Narborough

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported our church over the last year. Whether your support was financial or practical or both, it is much appreciated and we couldn't continue without you.



We are fortunate in that we receive additional revenue from renting out the church bungalow. Last year the bungalow was let for the full year which greatly helped us to pay our bills in full. So far this year the bungalow has not been let and we are really suffering from the missed income.

For 2019 the common fund assessed on our church amounts to £18,557.

The common fund is assessed by the Diocese of Exeter and the money is used to support local ministry, including the funding required to provide our priest.

Although the 2019 assessment is lower than the 2018 figure of £20,888, it is still a large amount of money to find for a church with the size and age demographic of congregation such as ours. As well as the common fund, we have to find and raise enough funds to keep the church running on a daily basis, water tight and warm, which in 2018 cost £15,294.

I would like to ask everyone to continue to help us to meet our future financial commitments by supporting us as much as you can. You can do this by either joining our Parish Giving Scheme or The Friends of Holsworthy Parish Church, by way of a simple donation or considering an increase in your current donation. Parish Giving Scheme and Friends packs are available at the back of church.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like a pack sent to you, or to discuss how you can make a one off donation or set up a regular giving amount.

Thank You

Helen Narborough – Treasurer, Holsworthy Parish Church
Tel: 01409 253868 Email: hknarborough*btinternet.com

St. Petroc, Hollacombe

by Margaret Stacey

With Easter being at the later time this year our churchyard is at present full of 'Lenten Lillies' during the season of Lent. We are so fortunate to be able to enjoy these beautiful flowers to brighten the solemn period of Lent but also herald the Spring season and warmer and longer days.



During Lent we have had our Annual Meeting with the usual business and whilst sad to have lost our church warden of many years, Mr John Granger who with his wife Sheila have moved to be nearer family, we are very pleased to have Mr Paul Dymond join Mrs Teresa Davy as our new church warden. The other officers

remain as before. Our grateful thanks to John for all his hard work and the benefit of his knowledge and experience. We hope he and Sheila will enjoy a long and happy 'second retirement' in their new home.

We now have our new chairs to bring us up to the desired number which replaced the pews when we had the 'rot and fungus problem' and had to lose the pews, floor and pipe organ. This was made possible by a generous donation from Gemma (nee Isaac) and Tom Bevins who were married at St Petroc a few years ago. Thank you very much Gemma and Tom, not forgetting little son William baptised also at St Petroc. We now have surplus to requirements 10 Blue Stacking Chairs (with cover) They are available for Free but please collect. Contact. 07971930294 for further details.

We have also been privileged to welcome Canon Tim Newcombe from Okehampton who stepped in at short notice to lead Evensong on the first Sunday in March and at the start of Lent to have Fr Peter Bevan from Torrington (Forward in Faith) on Ash Wednesday to conduct a service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Our grateful Thanks to both. It was good to have Fr Richard Freeman back with again for the usual third Sunday Holy Communion and hopefully his back will continue to behave!!

On Wednesday 27th March a small number attended St Petroc's for Stations of The Cross led by Rev Elizabeth Burke assisted by Mr Paul Dymond. This is the second year we have had this very moving and meaningful time of prayer and reflection. It brings the true meaning of the season to light touching on the many aspects of Jesus's last journey and humiliation.

Those of us who usually worship at Hollacombe would like to thank the team at Bridgerule for a nice welcome & refreshments after the Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism and Confirmation on Mothering Sunday on 31st March on the occasion of Bishop Roberts' visit to the Benefice. Thank you also for the beautiful posies for the ladies. We are looking forward to welcoming the Benefice on the last Sunday in June to St Petroc at Hollacombe when Holy Communion will be celebrated by The Archdeacon at 10.00am.

Services at St Petroc during April

Sunday 7th 3pm Evensong

Easter Day 21st April 9am Holy Communion. Rev Stuart Wilson.

Please note earlier time.

Sunday May 5th 3pm Evensong.

Benefice Website

www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

The website goes from strength to strength and its use has really surprised us, never did we expect the website to be viewed by so many. Did you know that every time a page is viewed on our site it generates what is known as a page impression. So if someone viewed 5 pages then this would create 5 page impressions. Well in the past twelve months the number of page impressions was 201,374. The busiest months were April, 29,178, June 20,178, July 19,404 and October 18,390. The quietest month was September when we only had 12,518 page impressions. Of course the number of pages viewed does not give a true indication of how many people actually visited the website but by analysing the website using some specialist tools we have it can be seen that in the past twelve months the site has been viewed by 2,600 visitors.

The content on the website was reorganised last year to make it easier to find what you may be looking for. The site opens on the Homepage and on that page you can use a link to the Benefice Calendar. This can be viewed as a weekly or monthly calendar or even a list and any of these can be printed should you need a paper copy. From the calendar it is easy to find the appropriate readings, collects and psalm for each day of the year.

In the news section you will see the weekly pew sheet, this usually goes onto the site on a Friday morning so that you can see the readings for the coming Sunday. It is the News section of the site that you can also find the Magazine and a list of events. The most recent addition to the website has been the adding of information on Safeguarding for each of the parishes. In addition to the website we also have a presence on Facebook



To find us on Facebook just search for Holsworthy Benefice.

Bob Beckford (Webmaster)

General News From The Parish Pump

BISHOPS IN MISSION 2020

In 2020, Bishop Robert, Bishop Jackie and Bishop Nick have set aside time for Bishops in Mission weekends, as they did in 2016-17. This time, rather than one Bishop visiting a single Deanery, all three Bishops will visit a whole Archdeaconry together. They will be in the Barnstaple Archdeaconry from Friday 6th March to Sunday 8th March 2020.



Before then, Deanery Chapters and Deanery Synods are being consulted for ideas of what we could organise? Do you have any ideas, dreams, visions where Bishops either individually or together could help us 'Make New Disciples'. We need to have your ideas so that they can be sent to Archdeacon Mark by Friday 3rd May please? For more information, please contact the Rural Dean or the Editor:
Rural Dean: Rev'd Jane Lucas (therev.rectory62@gmail.com)
Editor: Rev'd. Richard Freeman (rictherec@aol.com)

BISHOP ROBERT STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH MUSLIM COMMUNITY FOLLOWING NEW ZEALAND MOSQUE SHOOTINGS



Bishop Robert joined Exeter MP Ben Bradshaw to offer his support to Imam Ahmed from Exeter Mosque
Posted: 15th March, 2019

In a gesture of solidarity and condolence following the fatal attacks on Muslims in New Zealand, the Bishop of

Exeter, Rt Rev Robert Atwell visited Exeter Mosque ahead of the weekly Friday prayers.

He and Exeter MP Ben Bradshaw met Imam Ahmed Kowsar, who leads the mosque. The Bishop said: "We are shocked and saddened at this devastating and horrendous attack on so many Muslims in New Zealand in their places of worship, which should have been a sanctuary. "We want to stand in solidarity with the victims and their families, the people of New Zealand and Muslim communities across the world, particularly here in our own community in Devon."

Revd Canon Dr John Hall, Inter-Faith Adviser for the Diocese of Exeter, who also attended the brief meeting, said: "Like many others I awoke to the sad news of another terrorist incident, this time in Christchurch, New Zealand where two mosques were attacked in an abhorrent and callous act of violence.

"Currently 49 people are reported to have died with a further 20 others injured.

“This comes as a terrible tragedy for country which has not known such things before and has enjoyed a relatively harmonious and peaceful society made up as it is of many different cultures and faiths. “At this time of Lent, Christians will wish to add to their prayers those who have been bereaved and injured in Christchurch, remembering their families and the communities which they represent. “Many will have been traumatised and others left feeling frightened and bewildered. An attack on one religious place of worship is as if it were an attack on us all.

“In these tragic circumstances, Christians stand shoulder to shoulder with their Muslim neighbours. “Here in the Diocese of Exeter we cannot be complacent in the face of current threats to our community life and we must stand together against those who would divide us.

“Tolerance and respect are marks of civilised society and we must defend them. We send our condolences, our thoughts and prayers to our friends in the mosques and Muslim communities across Devon and around the world.”

	Holsworthy Methodist Church Thursday Group Programme 2019		
April 14 th	“GO WEST YOUNG MAN”	Lynda and Cliff Vickery	
April 18 th	✠“MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION”	Clive Smale	
May 2 nd	“A GAMES EVENING “	Sylvia Simpson	
May 16 th	“VISIT TO A GARDEN CENTRE”		
May 30 th	AGM	Followed by Hilary Vivian	
All meetings at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise, for further information please contact Doreen Buckingham (Tel: 253462)			

Easter Trivia

What was the biggest-ever (real) Easter bunny?

So far, the longest rabbit was Darius, a Flemish giant rabbit owned by Annette Edwards (UK), who was found to be 4 ft 3 in (129 cm) long when measured for an article in the UK's Daily Mail newspaper in April 2010.

CREATIVE CHURCH

Informal interactive church for everyone

Tuesday, 16th April
3pm, St Swithun's Pyworthy



STATIONS of the CROSS

Crafts
Prayer
Follow the path of the cross

Not been to church before?
Come and give it a go



WALK OF WITNESS

Good Friday,
19th April,
10.30am
Holsworthy Square
(meet by the pharmacy)

Finishing with Hot Cross Buns
at St Peter and St Paul's Church

All welcome - adults & children

CREATIVE CHURCH

WITH
EASTER EGG HUNT
ALL WELCOME

Easter Monday, 22nd April

10.30am - Badock Gardens, Holsworthy
2pm - St Bridget's Church, Bridgerule
4pm - St Swithun's Church, Pyworthy



St George's Day Creative Church & Parade

Tuesday 23rd April 4.45-7pm

4,45pm Crafts in St Peter and St Paul's Church
6pm Parade - Holsworthy Town Square
followed by a short celebration service
back at the church



Everyone welcome - Adults & Children

CREATIVE CHURCH

All in the Month of April

It was:

100 years ago, on 11th April 1919 that the International Labour Organisation was founded as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended WWI. It later became part of the United Nations. Its first act was to establish an 8-hour working day and maximum 48-hour working week.

80 years ago, on 1st April 1939 that the Spanish Civil War ended. General Franco's government was officially recognised.

70 years ago, on 4th April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

50 years ago, on 22nd April 1969 that British sailor Sir Robin Knox-Johnston became the first person to circumnavigate the globe non-stop and single-handed.

40 years ago, on 1st April 1979 that Iran was proclaimed an Islamic Republic.

30 years ago, on 14th April 1989 that the Hillsborough Disaster took place in Sheffield. 96 Liverpool FC fans were killed in a crush during the F A C Cup semi-final football match against Nottingham Forest.

25 years ago, on 6th April 1994 that the Rwandan genocide began when a plane carrying Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundian president Cyprien Ntaryamira was shot down by extremists. Civil war broke out the following day. An estimated 1 million people were massacred during the next 100 days.

Also 25 years ago, on 27th April 1994 that post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million blacks eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president and took office on 10th May.

20 years ago, on 5th April 1999 that Libya handed over to the United Nations two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. They were taken to the Netherlands to face trial. Abdelbaset al-Megrahi was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment and later released. Died May 2012. The other suspect was acquitted.

Also 20 years ago, on 26th April 1999 that Jill Dando, TV presenter, newsreader, journalist and former Crimewatch reporter was shot dead on the doorstep of her home in London. It is still a mystery who killed her.

Benefice Services for April - http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk/services/benefice-calendar/					
	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
<i>Passion Sunday</i> - <i>Passiontide begins and all crosses, icons etc are removed or covered if they have not already been throughout Lent</i>	7th Apr 11.15am Sung Eucharist	3pm Sung BCP Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am All Age Service
<i>Palm Sunday</i> - <i>The start of Jesus' journey to the cross</i>	14th Apr 11.15am Morning Prayer		9.30am Sung Eucharist		11.15am Sung Eucharist
<i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	15th Apr	10am Benefice Said Eucharist at Holsworthy			
<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	16th Apr	10am Benefice Said Eucharist at Holsworthy 3pm Benefice Creative Church Stations of the Cross Pyworthy			
<i>Wednesday of Holy Week (Spy Wednesday)</i> - <i>It's on this day that Judas, took a bribe to betray Jesus to those who wished to kill him</i>	17th Apr	7pm Benefice Stations of the Cross and Eucharist Holsworthy			
<i>Maundy Thursday</i> - <i>The Last Supper, when Jesus washed the disciples feet and commanded us to eat bread and wine</i>	18th Apr	11am Chism Mass at Exeter Cathedral 7pm Sung Eucharist with washing of feet and stripping of the altar with Altar of Repose at Bridgerule 7.30pm Sung Eucharist with washing of feet and stripping of the altar. Watch at the Altar of Repose at Holsworthy 10pm Compline at Holsworthy			
<i>Good Friday</i> - <i>Jesus is put to death on a cross</i>	19th Apr	3pm Benefice Celebration of the Passion of the Lord with a meditation on the last words of our Lord Holsworthy	10.30am Walk of Witness - Holsworthy Square 1pm Benefice Music and Meditation on the last words of Jesus Pyworthy 7pm Benefice <i>tenebrae</i> Holsworthy		
<i>Holy Saturday</i> - <i>The Church is, as it were, at the Lord's tomb, meditating on his passion and death, and on his descent into hell, and awaiting his resurrection with prayer and fasting</i>	20th Apr	8.30pm Benefice Easter Vigil Holsworthy (Sunset 8.36pm)			
<i>Easter Day</i> <i>The Day of the Resurrection of the Lord</i>	21st Apr 11.15am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung BCP Holy Communion	9.30am Sung Eucharist		11.15 Communion by Extension
<i>Easter Monday</i>	22nd Apr 2pm Creative Church with Easter Egg Hunt		10.30am Creative Church with Easter Egg Hunt		4pm Creative Church with Easter Egg Hunt
<i>St George's Day</i>	Tue 23rd Apr	4.45pm Crafts in St Peter and St Paul Holsworthy, 6pm Parade Holsworthy Town Square, back to St Peter and St Paul for Celebration Service.			
<i>Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)</i>	28th Apr 11.15am Morning Worship		9.30am Sung Morning Prayer	9.30am Sung Eucharist	11.15am Sung Eucharist
<p>Holy week is the most important week of the year Do make sure you travel with Jesus and the disciples into Jerusalem in the Last Supper and foot washing, and enter into the Garden of Gethsemane Stand at the foot of the Cross with Mary and the Beloved Disciple Having done all that then we can truly celebrate the Day of the Resurrection</p>					

This chart was correct at the time we went to press. Please check on the back of your weekly service sheet for any last-minute changes or take a look at the Benefice Calendar on our www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk/services/benefice-calendar/

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01409 255490 or 07990 978485



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God in the Arts

Editor: The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world. It is home to 2,300 works spanning the centuries of artistic creation. During this year we shall be journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month. By the Rev Michael Burgess.



The Mond Crucifixion – by Raphael

This month's painting in the National Gallery is known as the Mond Crucifixion. It has an interesting history, because Ludwig Mond, the German born scientist and industrialist, offered to lend the painting to the Gallery in 1892. The trustees for some reason declined the offer. Ludwig Mond was undeterred and at his death in 1909 he bequeathed to the Gallery over 40 paintings. It was an amazingly generous gift, and included this Crucifixion by Raphael.

It belongs to the artist's early years and was painted when he was just 20, for a church altarpiece in Urbino in 1503. On Good Friday we hear those words from Lamentations, 'Is it nothing to you who pass by? – look and see.' We might look on the cross of Jesus and see a sign of agony and death. But here in the Mond Crucifixion, all seems serene and still. It is a far cry from the harshness and cruelty of the Gospel accounts. Look at the angels with their ribbons and feet resting on the clouds, the hands and feet of the four bystanders so delicately painted, and beyond, the softly lit Umbrian landscape with a river, trees and low hills stretching away into the distance.

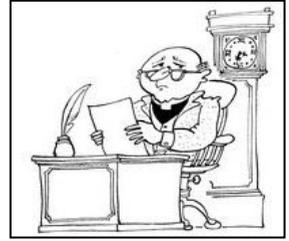
It is as if Raphael has frozen this moment of death on his canvas to tell us that here is an enduring message of love and generosity for Mary, John, Mary Magdalene and Jerome gathered below. Our Lady and John look at us, inviting us to discover there the solemn beauty that moves their lives and that can move us.

In our worship on Good Friday we encounter this paradox of the cross – a sign of suffering and death, but a sign also of generosity. We can think of the generosity of Ludwig Mond, the generosity of Raphael sharing his gifts with us, but above all the generosity of our Prince of Glory. Here, in the words of Isaac Watts' hymn, we see how 'love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.'

April 2019 – Letter from St. James the Least of All

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St. James-the-Least in the county of C..... for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...



On why a vicar should avoid wedding receptions

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

My generous offer to take last week's marriage service for you in your church, so that you could attend your weekend plumbing course, proved most unwise. You may now be qualified to unblock church hall kitchen sinks, but I will not be taking another marriage ceremony for you again, no matter how much you have set your heart on that electrician's course next year, so that you can re-wire the vestry.

At first, I was delighted when the bride's mother called, inviting me to the reception. I assumed that somewhere called Charnley Hall would be a most fitting location, full of oak floors and waiters bearing sherry to guests. I did not realise until too late that it is only the rather dubious pub next door to your church.

At least I had been placed with the happy couple and both sets of parents. Then it slowly dawned on me: I was there to stop the bride's mother from attacking her newly-acquired son-in-law. My presence may have kept an uneasy peace at our table, but it had no such effect on some of the others.

Well before the speeches, bride's and groom's supporters were exchanging snide remarks and bitter looks. Then

all hell broke loose: a bridesmaid slapped an usher and burst into tears.

That was the starting signal for the liveliest wedding reception I have ever attended: chairs were knocked about, plates broken, wedding cake thrown, flowers snapped in two, and memorable insults exchanged. Of course, I could cope with all that, but then someone snatched the bottle of champagne that had been placed in front of me. They were going to waste it by breaking it on someone's head. I knew then that things had gone far enough.

It took but an instant for me to leap to my feet, lean over the table, and try and grab my bottle back. Unfortunately, that was when the police arrived. Were our churchwarden, Lord Jelleby to have been on the bench that day, matters could have been settled quite amicably. It was not to be: you may enthusiastically pass the peace in your church; I am now bound over to keep it.

Your loving uncle, *Eustace*

High Days and Holy Days in April

14 April - Palm Sunday: Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

18 April - Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

19 April - GOOD FRIDAY: the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

21 April – EASTER: the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

23 April - St George: our patron saint who isn't English

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who may not have existed at all. That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our gratitude and admiration.

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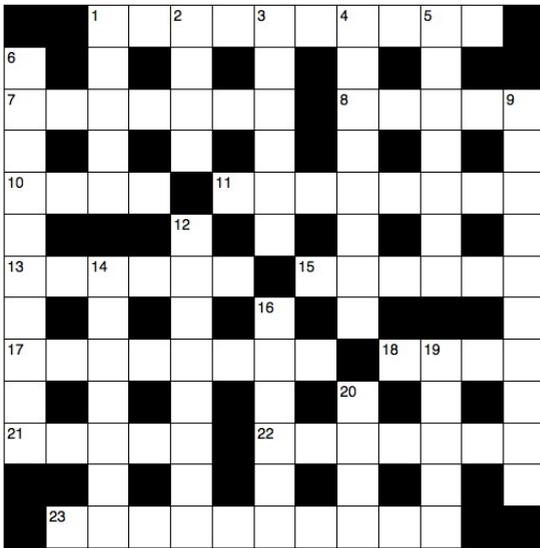


The vicar had assured the verger that the clock repairers had promised to come as soon as possible

They could have either a procession of crosses, or a donkey. But not both.

The Puzzle Pages **April 2019 Crossword**

(The solution to this crossword puzzle can be found on page 27)



Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear

or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)

17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)

18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)

21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)

22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)

23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

1 Of the pope (5)

2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)

3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)

4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)

5 Sing out (anag.) (7)

6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)

9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)

12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)

14 See cape (anag.) (7)

16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)

19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)

20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)

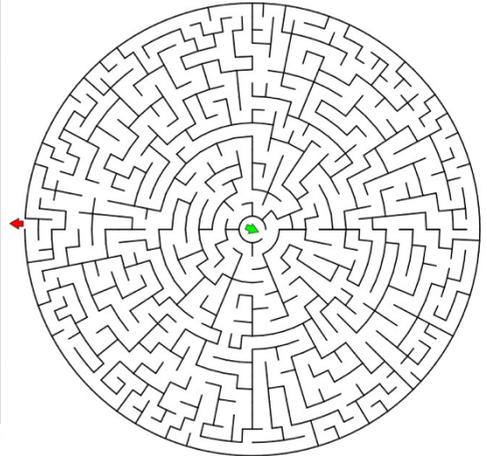
April 2019 Sudoku (Solution on page 28)

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April 2019 Maze

Start at the centre and exit on the left.



Breath Of Fresh Air Lung Support Group

Wed April 17th at 2pm in Chilsworthy Village Hall.

At our next meeting we have Clare Ovendell, Community Respiratory Nurse from Barnstaple, coming to talk to us about:

Respiratory care in North Devon and changes to the current services.

New members are welcome.

Tea and refreshments will be served for a voluntary donation of £1.

More details can be obtained for Group Facilitator Wendy Millar on 01409 254085

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Please email the editor for details



Taking place this year on **Saturday 18th May**, Nightwalk is a ladies-only walk along the Tarka Trail, with over 1,000 women stepping out to support the hospice.

Nightwalk 2019, on Saturday 18th May, will have a “back to the ‘80’s” theme with related

party areas and entertainment on the Trail, including 80s dance routines (at Fremington Quay), babycham stations, 80s stiltwalkers, Hopps and Chappell at Barnstaple and Bideford finishes, and more.

Sign up now to register for Nightwalk 2019 ; be part of this very special evening, and raise funds for our amazing Hospice night nurses!

Please visit our www.northdevonhospice.org.uk website to register.

More Easter trivia

What was the largest ever Easter egg hunt?

The most-ever entrants for an egg hunt competition was 12,773. It was The Fabergé Big Egg Hunt, as part of World Record London, in London, UK in April 2012.

What was the largest-ever decorated Easter egg?

This was built in March 2008, by Freeport in Alcochete, Portugal. It measured 14.79 m (48 ft 6 in) long and 8.40 m (27 ft 6 in) in diameter.

What was the largest ever chocolate Easter egg?

It was made in Tosca (Italy) and weighed 7,200 kg (15,873 lbs 4.48 oz). It had a circumference of 19.6 m (64 ft 3.65 in) at its widest point. It was exhibited in a shopping centre in Cortenuova, Italy, in April 2011.

What about the most expensive hot cross bun?

This was baked in 1829 in Stepney, London, UK. It was bought by Bill Foster (UK) for £155 at the Antiques for Everyone show at the NEC in Birmingham, West Midlands, UK, in April 2000. Hot cross buns were originally made to hang in the kitchen to ward off evil spirits.

Smile Lines

The bishop's visit

A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese for Easter. He wanted the young people to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop's long, flowing robes and carried his crook. "Now," beamed the bishop, "do you know who I am?"

After a moment's silence, one child ventured "Little Bo Peep?"

Great expectations

At a baptism the young minister was full of enthusiasm. He held the baby in his arms and speculated aloud as to the child's possible future. "He may become a captain of industry, a great scientist, or a gifted teacher – someone on whom hundreds of young boys may model themselves." Then turning to the parents in a rather grand manner, he asked, "And so what name to you give to this child?" Timidly, the reply came: "Amanda Jane."

April 2019 Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Priesthood. 7, Replica. 8, Get up. 10, Calif. 11, Governor. 13, See you. 15, Not see. 17, Incident. 18, Sake. 21, NSPCC. 22, Trample. 23, Perishable.

DOWN: 1, Papal. 2, In it. 3, Shalom. 4, Huguenot. 5, Outings. 6, Procession. 9, Perseveres. 12, Mordecai. 14, Escapee. 16, Snatch. 19, Apple. 20, Lamb.

Some Useful Numbers

Holsworthy Benefice Priest-in-Charge:

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elizabethmaburke*icloud.com 01409 255490 or 07990 978485

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Holsworthy Community College	253430
Library	253514
Health Centre	253692
Sports Hall	254013
Holsworthy Visitor Centre	254185
Brownies (M Galjardt)	254727
Guides (Jane Crocombe)	211319
Scouts (Cathy Withall)	254803
Town Clerk	253312
Memorial Hall	255450
Holsworthy Play Group (Dawn Bewes)	253825
Holsworthy Hospital	253424
Boots the Chemist	255295
Lloyds Pharmacy	253461
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Rev'd Jane Lucas (Ashwater Benefice)	01409 211205
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